

PO Malcolm Thomas Kershaw
Walkden 62341 RAFVR

Malcolm was born on 12 May 1917 in Prestwich, Lancashire, the youngest son of James Albert Walkden and Margaret A Walkden nee Kershaw.

Educated at Repton School, Derbyshire, Malcolm was employed as a Departmental Manager at Carr's Biscuit factory at Carlisle when he joined the RAF in 1940. After qualifying as a pilot, Malcolm was commissioned in March 1941.

Following advanced training at 17 OCU RAF Upwood, Cambridgeshire, in July 1941 Malcolm was posted to 18 Sqn at RAF Oulton, Norfolk, shortly before the squadron re-located to RAF Horsham St Faith, Norfolk.

On 12 August 1941, 56 Blenheims, split into 2 forces and supported by a fighter escort, were tasked with simultaneous attacks on the Quadrath and Knapsack power stations at Cologne. Nine 18 Sqn aircraft participated - Malcolm's target was Knapsack, the largest steam generator in Europe, supplying a vital industrial area. Three squadron aircraft failed to return.

At 09:20 Malcolm and his crew departed RAF Horsham St Faith in Blenheim IV V6437 (WV-C).

Flying at low level, Malcolm's Blenheim hit some high tension cables with the rudder, flying on for a few minutes still under control. The bombs were jettisoned in a field and the crew turned for home; however, shortly later the Blenheim crashed in the mouth of the Scheldt, off Vlissingen, killing all on board. Only the WOp/AG was recovered for burial.

Also killed: PO Bernard Frederick West Matthews (Observer); Sgt Albert Charles Cutler (WOp/AG)

Malcolm has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

Malcolm is commemorated on Wall Panel 258

Photo Source: Watton Info - The Walkden Crew

